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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 USIA-06 NSC-05 SS-15 L-03 H-01 PA-01
PRS-01 /081 W
----------162019Z 066668 /43/53
R 151824Z MAR 77
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3263
INFO ALL EC CAPS 3278
AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 2502

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y(FOR RENUMBERING PARA'S)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC PO
SUBJECT: SOARES VISIT TO EC COMMISSION: NEXT STEPS IN PORTUGAL'S
EC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

REF: EC BRUSSELS 2453

1. SUMMARY: EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL AND COUNSELOR AT PORTUGUESE MISSION TO EC HAVE DISCUSSED WITH US PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO EC COMMISSION LAST WEEK (REFTEL) AND EXPECTED NEXT STEPS REGARDING PORTUGUAL'S EC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. THEY PREDICT CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN EC COMMISSION AND GOVERNMENT OF PORTUGAL (GOP) AS COMMISSION, IN MONTHS AHEAD, PREPARES FOR EC COUNCIL ITS OPINION REGARDING PORTUGUESE ACCESSION AND NEGOTIATIONS TO THAT END. END SUMMARY.

2. PORTUGUESE MISSION COUNSELOR, WHO ATTENDED SOME OF SOARES' MEETING WITH EC COMMISSIONERS APRIL 11-12 (ALTHOUGH NOT THE RESTRICTED SESSION WITH COMMISSION PRESIDENT ROY CONFIDENTIAL

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JENKINS), TOLD MISSION OFFCER MARCH 15 THAT UPON LEAVING BRUSSELS LAST WEEKEND, SOARES APPEARED SATISFIED THAT HIS ISITS TO THE NINE EC CAPITALS AND THE EC COMMISSION HAVE SUCCESSFULLY SET IN TRAIN A PROCESS WHICH WILL LEAD TO PORTUGAL'S ULTIMATE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WITH WESTERN EUROPE. NOTING THAT SOARES HAD GOTTEN FROM THE

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COMMISSION "THE ANSWER WE EXPECTED" -- I.E., THAT
FOR POLITICAL REASONS THE COMMUNITY IS INCLINED TO
CONSIDER FAVORABLY A PORTUGUESE ACCESSION APPLICATION,
BUT THAT ECONOMIC REFORMS WILL HAVE TO GO HAND IN HAND
WITH NEGOTIATIONS TOWARD MEMBERSHIP -- COUNSELOR SAID
THAT PORTUGAL IS ALREADY TAKING STEPS TO HARMONIZE ITS
LEGISLATION RELATING TO AGRICULTURE AND INVESTMENTS
WITH COMMUNITY LEGISLATION. HE ALSO SAID GOP AGREES
WITH THE COMMISSION THAT BOTH BEFORE AND DURING
ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS THERE SHOULD BE ONGOING EC-
PORTUGUESE DISCUSSIONS ON FURTHER HARMONIZATION IN
TRADE AND FINANCE. WHILE RECALLING THAT THE PORTUGUESE
MISSION HERE AND THE EC COMMISSION HAVE KEPT IN CLOSE
TOUCH IN RECENT MONTHS AS SOARES STEPPED UP HIS CAMPAIGN
FOR ACCESSION, COUNSELOR SAID HE ANTICIPATES ESTABLISH-
MENT OF AN EVEN CLOSER, "PERHAPS MORE FORMAL" WORKING
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMISSION IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.
IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, PORTUGUESE COUNSELOR SAID HE
THOUGHT EC COMMISSION HAD GIVEN NO INDICATION TO SOARES
REGARDING LIKELY LENGTH OF ACCESSION NEGOTIATIONS OR OF
TRANSITION PRIOD TO FOLLOW. HE RECALLED, HOWEVER,
SOARES' MARCH 12 STATEMENT TO PRESS THAT HE HOPED FOR
THE CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS AND EC MEMBERSHIP BY
1980-1 WITH "COMPLETE INTEGRATION" BY 1985 (REFTEL).

3. MISSION OFFICER ALSO DISCUSSED SOARES-EC COMMISSION
TLAKS WITH PENSA, CHEF DE CABINET TO EC COMMISSIONER
NAALLI, WHO HAS RESPONSIBLILITY FORCOMMUNITY ENLARGE-
MENT. HE, TOO, THOUGHT SOARDS VISIT HAD GONE WELL.
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PENSA CONFIRMED THAT NO PROMISES WERE MADE TO SOARES
ON NEGOTIATIONS/ACCESSION TIMETABLE. HE SAID NAALLI
HAD EMPHASIZED TO SOARES THAT ANY DISCUSSION OF ENLARGE-
MENT AND OF NEGOTIATIONS RELATING THERETO WOULD HAVE
TO BE ACCOMPANIED BY INTERNAL EC CONSIDERATION OF HOW
TO OVERHAUL COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED
FOR A COMMUNITY OF SIX MEMBERS. ACCORDING TO PENSA,
SOARES INDICATED HE IS FLEXIBLE REGARDING COMMU ITY
STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS.

4. ASKED ABOUT EXPECTED NEXT STEPS ON PORTUGAL, PENSA
SUGGESTED THE FOLLOWING SCENARIO: (A) ACCORDING TO
PRESENT PLANS, SOARES WILL PRESENT TO COMMUNITY PRIOR
TO MARCH 31 A FORMAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION (I.E.,
AFTER SEEKING ENDORSEMENT FROM PORTUGUESE ASSEMBLY
A WEEK OR TEN DAYS FROM NOW, ACCORDING TO PORTUGUESE
MISSION COUNSELOR); (B) ASSUMING COMMUNITY RECEIPT
BY MARCH 31, EC COUNCIL OF APRIL 5 IS EXPECTED TO
TAKE FORMAL COGNIZANCE OF APPLICATION AND INSTRUCT EC

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COMMMISSION TO DRAW UP AN OPINION ON IT;
(C) COMMISSION MIGHT PRESENT OPINION TO COUNCIL "IN
ABOUT A YEAR"; (D) ASSUMING COMMISSION OPINION IS
FAVORABLE AND COUNCIL ACCEPTS IT, NEGOTIATIONS COULD
OPEN LATER IN 1978.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 EC BRUSSELS 2502

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y(FOR RE-NUMBERING PARAS')

5. PENSA ENTERED TWO CAVEATS TO ABOVE SHEDULE:
(A) SINCE THERE IS OFTEN SLIPPAGE IN EC COUNCIL'S
WORK SCHEDULE, COUNCIL MIGHT NOT ACKNOWLEDGE
PORTUGUESE APPLICATION AND INSTRUCT COMMISSION
UNTIL COUNCIL SESSION IN MAY; AND (B) SINCE COUNCIL
DECISION OF FEBRUARY 8 ON COMMON REPLY TO BE GIVEN
SOARES AS HE VISITED EC CAPITALS CONTAINED IMPLICA-
TION THAT COUNCIL MIGHT WISH COMMISSION TO PREPARE
RECOMMENDATONS REGARDING GREATER CONERGENCE OF
PORTUGUESE AND MEMBER STATE ECONOMIES BEFORE GIVING
FORMAL OPINION ON OPENING OF ACCESSION TALKS(USEC 1261),
THE NEXT COUNCIL TO EXAMINE PORTUGAL'S APPLICATON
MIGHT DIRECT COMMISSION TO PREPARE NOW, AS A FIRST
STEP, ONLY ECONOMIC RECOMMENDATIONS. HOWEVER, PENSA
SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF PRECISE NATURE OF INSTRUCTIONS
FROM COUNCIL TO COMMISSION, IT IS CLEAR THAT UNLIKE
GREEK CASE, WHERE COMMISSION PREARED ITS OPINION
FOR COUNCIL LARGELY ALONE AND WITHOUT CONSULTING THE
GREEK GOVERNMENT, COMMISSION AND GOP WILL STAY IN VERY
CLOSE TOUCH IN PERIOD AHEAD AS THEY DISCUSS ECONOMIC

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CONVERGENCE AND OTHER PROBLEMS RELATING TO PORTUGAL'S
EC MEMBERSHIP. TO THAT END, ACCORDING TO PENSA, A
REGULAR CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM IS BEING ESTABLISHED
AND FIRST MEETING IS TENTATIVELY PLANNED FOR APRIL 18.
PENSA ALSO SAID IN THIS CONNECTION THAT COMMISSION TOLD
SOARES IT HOPED GOP WOULD CONSULT WITH IT FURTHER
BEFORE SUBMITTING ITS 1977-80 ECONOMIC "RECOVERY PLAN"
TO PORTUGESE ASSEMBLY IN MID-MAY.

6. IN REPLY TO QUESTION, PENSA SIAD THAT SOARES AND
PORTUGUESE OFFICIALS ACCOMPANYING HIM TO BRUSSELS
GAVE IMPRESSION OF BEING VERY WELL SATISIFIED WITH TOUR
OF EC CAPTILAS,INCLUDING PARIS.HE ALSO SAID, HOWEVER,
THAT ONE PORTUGUESE OFFICIAL HAD REMARKED HERE THAT THE
FRENCH ARE "HARD BARGAINERS", AND HAD SAID THAT THE FRENCH
IMPLIED THAT THEIR SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE EC MEMBER-
SHIP MIGHT BE CONTINGENT UPON THE WARMTH AND VALUE OF
BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS THE TWO
COUNTRIES ARE ABLE TO ESTABLISH. PENSA SAID THE
COMMISSION TOLD THE PORTUGUESE TEAM THAT WHILE THE
COMMISSION WOULD NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN PORTUGAL'S
BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH ANY COUNTRY, IT SEEMS
PRUDENT TO REMEMBER THAT IN THE EC CONTEXT PORTUGAL
WILL BE NEGOTIATING ITS MEMBERSHIP WITH NINE COUNTRIES.HINTON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, TRADE ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ECBRU02502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770178-1112, D770089-0131
Format: TEL
From: EC BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770360/aaaacact.tel
Line Count: 200
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 5039f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 EC BRUSSELS 2453
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3110415
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOARES VISIT TO EC COMMISSION: NEXT STEPS IN PORTUGAL\'S EC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
TAGS: OVIP, PORG, ECIN, PO, XT, EEC, (SOARES, MARIO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5039f8b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009